

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Responsive to the amendment filed 23 September 2009, claim 1 is amended.
Claims 1-13 are currently under examination.

Status of Previous Rejections

2. Responsive to the amendment filed 23 September 2009, the rejections of the claims are withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 25 March 2009 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. The examiner has not received any of foreign patent documents 2 and 3 or NPL document 1. Documents which have not been received have not been considered and have been stricken.
4. The information disclosure statement filed 3 September 2009 has been entered. Documents with no English translation or abstract have not been considered, and have been stricken.

Drawings

5. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dan Ark on 25 September 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 12 and 13.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-11 are allowed. The examiner finds that none of the prior art teaches wherein the interface surface of the punch overlaps with another member, and wherein the opening is defined by the face-to-face interface of the punch and the other member.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER KESSLER whose telephone number is (571)272-6510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Roy King/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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